पर्मानेंट मशीनरी जैसे आरबिट्रेरीज देने की बात पब्लिक सेक्टर इंटरप्राईज में है, वह भी तय हो गया है।

तो इस प्रकार के बहुत सारे ऐसे मसले हैं, जो बेसिक हैं, जो उसकी फाउंडेशन, नींव पर आधारित हैं। उन पर जब राज्य सरकारों के मिनिस्टर हो कर जाते हैं, तो हमारी कठिनाई काफी हद तक कम हो जाती है और जैसा मैंने कहा कि यह कमेटी कोई वहां सिफारिश करने नहीं जाती। वह तो सिफारिशों को अमली जामा पहनाने के लिए वहां जाती है। और एक बार वह वहां पर पार्टी हो जाती है उस निर्णय की उससे पार्टी होने के बाद फिर आगे इसको इंप्लीमेंट करने में कठिनाई नहीं हो पाएगी।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मान्यवर, मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि अकसर जो यह कमीशंस आफ् इन्क्वायरी एक्ट के अंतर्गत जांच आयोग बैठाया जाता है इसमें हाई कोर्ट के जो सिटिंग जजज हैं उनकी नियुक्ति की जाती है और अकसर यह सुझाव दिया गया है उसके कारण भी जो एरियर्ज हैं उनमें वृद्धि होती है। क्या सरकार इस सुझाव को विचार करेगी कि भविष्य में कमीशन आफ् इन्क्वायरी एक्ट के अंतर्गत किसी भी हाई कोर्ट के सिटिंग जज की जांच आयोग में नियुक्ति न की जाए?

श्री हंसराज भारद्वाज : श्रीमन्, यह भी एक मुद्दा लॉ मिनिस्टर के साथ अभी हाल में डिसकस हुआ और करीब-करीब सब की यह सिफारिश है कि कम से कम सिटिंग जजेज को कमीशन आफ् इन्क्वायरी में बैठाया जाए। लेकिन कई बार ऐसी मजबूरी होती है जिसमें जनता और गवर्नमेंट इनसिस्ट करती हैं कि हम खाली सिटिंग जज की इन्क्वायरी को ही पसंद करेंगे। उन मामलों में हमको सिटिंग जज देना पड़ता है। इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है कि सिटिंग जज को अगर कमीशन आफ् इन्क्वायरी में बैठाया जाए तो उसकी जगह जो काम होना था वह रुक जाता है। इसीलिए इस पर भी सहमति के लिए हमने लॉ मिनिस्टर्ज को पूछा और उनकी भी यही राय है कि सिटिंग जजेज को इन्क्वायरी में कम से कम बैठाया जाए।

*244. [The questioner (Shri Suresh Kalmadi) was absent. For answer vide col. . . . infra]

Recommendations of PAC to monitor custom duty concessions

*245. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY:†
SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee on monitoring custom duty concessions on import of drugs and their impact;

(b) whether these recommendations have been accepted by Govt.; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The recommendations contained in the 5th report of the Public Accounts Committee, 10th Lok Sabha (1991-92) regarding monitoring of custom duty concessions are general in nature and not specific to drugs.

(b) and (c) It is reported that the Ministry of Finance has already furnished an action taken note on the said recommendations of the Committee.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, a point of order... (*Interruptions*) I want to draw the attention of the House to the reply to this question. The reply says that it doesn't relate specifically to drugs. This relates to the Finance Ministry... (*Interruptions*) How can it be referred to the Prime Minister?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order in any case... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: A point of information... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: No, this question should have gone to the Finance Ministry... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Let the Minister answer and get into trouble. Why are you concerned? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: This does not relate specifically to drugs... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, this is a very funny situation. The Minister has not yet replied and they are referring to a reply which has not been made... (*Interruptions*) Let him reply... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It has to go to the Finance Ministry... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: You are talking about the procedure. Let him reply... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: The reply is correct. The question is not related to the Chemicals and Petrochemicals... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: The point is, Mr. Desai has said that the Finance Minister should answer this. I am also asking as to why the Prime Minister should answer this... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Is the Prime Minister alone competent to answer? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: We are requesting the Chairman to transfer the question to the Finance Minister. Let him answer it... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: This has been the practice of the House...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a specific question relating to the import of drugs... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Customs duty and other duties are collected by the Finance Minister. So, the Finance Ministry has to answer this... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, at any rate, these objections cannot be entertained at this stage... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This relates to drugs. So, the Minister of State for Chemicals... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It may be relating to drugs or chemicals. But duty is being collected by the Finance Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, do you want the question to be postponed? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: No, Sir, the Finance Ministry has to deal with it... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: A point of submissions... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: If the Minister is ready to answer, there is nothing wrong... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please sit down.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I want to submit that no objection can be raised to a question at this stage when the Chairman, in his wisdom, had already

admitted. Under the rules of procedure, no objection can be entertained at this stage. Please allow the question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Please sit down. I am allowing Mr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy to ask his supplementary.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, the Government is giving customs duty concessions and even exemptions on certain drug intermediates and bulk drugs.

The Minister, in his reply given to an Unstarred Question No. 1226 on 4th March, 1993, had stated the objective behind this. They are:

(1) to encourage manufacture of bulk drugs and formulations from more basic stages;

(2) to save foreign exchange;

(3) to ensure availability of medicines in abundant quantity to the consumers; and

(4) to ensure availability of medicines at a reasonably cheaper prices.

These are the four objectives mentioned by the Minister. But, Sir, in practice, none of them is fulfilled. So, my questions to the Ministers are (1) would the Minister give the names of at least five companies who have shifted from the manufacture of intermediates and bulk drugs to the manufacture of basic stages, (2) the names of at least five drugs other than doxycycline, whose prices have come down, and (3) how much foreign exchange has been saved by giving these concessions and exemptions.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, I leave it to your judgement to decide as to what portion of his question requires to be answered. I would, however, like to say that, yes, the hon. Member has a right to know, when he listed the objectives. I would like to respectfully submit that we have made progress in that direction. We are one of these Ministries which has a monetary machanism to see that the objectives are really achieved and that is not so much only due to us. I must admit that it is due to the fact that most of the prices—about 70 per cent of the formulations—are under the Price Control Order. Prices are fixed under the Drug Price (Control) Order (DPCO) and when the prices are fixed, whether these objectives are achieved or not, to what extent they are achieved, to what extent these concessions and exemptions all these are taken into account. That is how this is being done and this is an ongoing process which is taking place at all points of time.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, we are getting this answer since 1990.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: This shows the consistency of the Government.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, my second supplementary is, the Government is giving customs duty exemptions on certain drugs by naming them as life saving drugs. As a doctor, as a medical doctor, I know that actually there is no clearcut definition for the term 'life saving drug'. Some drugs are life saving for some diseases and some other drugs are life saving for some other diseases. In my opinion, every drug is a life saving drug. But by naming certain drugs as life saving drugs, some companies are getting undue favouritism. Here, the Government is not naming the pharmacopoeia drug but naming the brand name as the life saving drug. Some company may manufacture the same pharmacopoeia drug... (*Interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask your question. (*Interruptions*) I am glad to know what is a life saving drug. Please ask your question... (*Interruptions*)...

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir, first of all, naming a brand name as a life saving drug and giving the concessions and exemptions to a particular company is wrong. The second thing is, the Government should name

the pharmacopoeil name as the life saving drug but not the brand name. Some companies are, thus, allowed these concessions and exemptions and these are denied to some other companies. So, what is the rationale behind this? I would like to know whether some companies are giving kickbacks and some others are not giving kickbacks. I would like to know whether this is the rationale.

SHRI EDUARDI FALEIRO: Sir, I must disabuse the mind of the hon. Member who is thinking that such concessions are given company-wise. Sir prices are not fixed company-wise but prices are fixed formulation-wise. I would like to submit that whilst the honourable Member has apparently one view, there are other Members who say that all medicines are not life-saving drugs. In fact many doctors and organizations have strongly pointed out that there are irrational combinations. There are some formulations to which some ingredients are added which have no value, but which only increase the prices, and they have asked that such irrational combinations should be banned and they have asked what action is being taken in this regard. We are looking into these matters and we have looked into these matters with some success. I say this because the prices of different medicines have gone down as a result of the implementation of the Drug Prices Control Order. But, Sir, may I say this, in reply to the supplementary, that, by and large, why by and large, strictly speaking, the prices of drugs during the last three years—I have got the figures here—the wholesale prices of drugs have been not more than 70 per cent of the wholesale price index for all commodities? I will give the figures roughly from 1990-91.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Do you give concessions to brand names or to formulations? ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI EDURADO FALEIRO: Sir, the annual rate of increase according to the wholesale price index... *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Do you give concessions to brand names or to formulations?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Not to brand names. It is done for formulations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Ranjan Sahu.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Sir, first of all, I would like to make it clear that this question is about monitoring of the Customs duty concessions. It is only a simple question and it is about monitoring.

Sir, the honourable Minister is a friend of mine and I think he should have done his home work. He should have gone through his replies, the earlier reply of 11th March 1993 and still earlier replies given in December 1992 and several other replies in regard to monitoring. The Public Accounts Committee had recommended that the benefits should pass on to the consumer. But the benefits are being appropriated by the producer or the manufacturer. This is the remark of the Public Accounts Committee which had said that the duty concessions were not passed on to the consumer. This is the observation of the PAC. The duty concession is given to base production, to basic stages of production, and the consumer is supposed to get medicines at a cheaper rate. But it has been found that after the Customs duty concessions, the CIF prices are jacked up. The honourable Minister should look into this aspect. This is an important aspect of the matter. The price of a particular drug—I am giving only an example—prior to the duty concession was Rs. 810/- but it was jacked up to Rs. 850/- per kg. after the duty concession! The monitoring lies with the administrative Ministry and that is an established fact. The Minister also has said in his reply that monitoring task is with the administrative Ministry, that is, the Ministry

of Chemicals and Fertilizers. I would like to know from the honourable Minister that in case he does not have a monitoring agency—all the time he has said that he is having a monitoring agency—when he is going to constitute an agency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Sir, if he does not have a monitoring agency, does he propose to stop giving concessions because the benefits are not passed on to the consumers and also because the foreign suppliers are overcharging? Would he like to stop recommending to the Finance Ministry to give duty concessions?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, thank you.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, we do have a mechanism. I have replied earlier, to an earlier supplementary. We have a monitoring mechanism and the mechanism is working very effectively for the implementation of the Drug Prices Control Order. I would like to add that regarding the recent concessions that have been made in the Budget, we have already taken up this *suo motu* with the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices. I have written to them to tell what the impact of these duty concessions is on the prices because the benefits must go to the consumer. We have done that. We have already taken up with all the organizations and associations of manufacturers to pass on the benefits of the duty concessions to the consumers immediately We have already done this and we have done this in the context of this particular Budget.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Sir, ours is one of the few countries that is having several formulations, and their number is more than 25,000 or so. Sir, right from the Hathi Committee, several expert committees have recommended that these formulations could be reduced to less than 100. For example, B-Complex component or Doxychin or some other antibiotic can be named as Doxycuchin manufactured by Pfizer, Glaxo, etc. etc. These 25,000 and odd formulations in this country are confusing both the doctor as well as the patients. So, is there any proposal under the consideration of the Government to rename them according to the generic drug and according to the trade formulation?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, there is an Expert Committee in the Ministry of Health which monitors this. And this is also in the context of what I have said earlier. There are complaints of irrational formulations and irrational combinations. As and when they arise, and when the Expert Committee decides that they are irrational, then steps are taken to weed them out.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Sir, I want to ask a very basic and a very straightforward qustion. Sir, when it comes to... (*Interruptions*) I expect a straightforward reply also. Sir, when it comes to drugs, there are three important aspects—the purity of the drug, the price of the drug, and the availability of the drug. Is the Minister satisfied that the citizens of this country are having pure drugs, in other words, they are not spurious, they are having a right price, and the availability of drugs—whether they are basic, life saving or whatever—is there without any problem?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, our policy is to have good quality drugs and at reasonable prices, with easy availability. But the implementation of this, to check up on this whether these drugs are actually there in the drug stores or spurious drugs are there in the drug stores, is done under the Essential Commodities Act. And this is done by the State Governments. As and when such complaints come in, we in our Ministry do write to the State Governments. I write to the Chief Ministers. And my Secretary writers to the concerned Secretaries in the States. And that is how the system works.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: My question was: Are you satisfied?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Well, there is no such thing as overall satisfaction for all drugs.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: You are not satisfied.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: One is never satisfied or dissatisfied. What one does is, even if one finds a specific case which calls for action, one does take action. And one does that truly.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, one of the reasoins regarding profiteering by these drug companies is that they do not submit their cost audit report. And most of the multinationals and foreign companies are not sending their cost audit reports to the Company Law Board. I want to know whether your Ministry is following up as to which are the companies who have not submitted the cost audit reports and whether you are taking any action against them or not. They are making profits. Sir, a list has been given in one of the answers today. And these are the companies. If the Minister wants to know the names, I can give the names.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is all right. You don't have to.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Will he take action against those who have not submitted the cost audit reports?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, in the case if scheduled drugs, if this information is not submitted, then we take action. And the action is against the interests of the company in getting rises in terms of prices otherwise. And if the hon. Member has some specific information regarding some specific company, I can assure him and the House that I will look into that.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: This is already given by the Ministry. I can handover that to him just now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 246.

इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी उद्योग में नियोजित व्यक्ति

***246. श्री शान्ति त्यागी :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश के इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी उद्योग में प्रत्यक्ष अथवा परोक्ष रूप से कितने व्यक्ति नियोजित हैं और उनमें महिलाओं और विकलांगों की अलग-अलग संख्या कितनी है;

(ख) क्या सरकार इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी वस्तुओं के उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने और गुणवत्तायुक्त वैकल्पिक प्रौद्योगिकी विकसित करने के लिए प्रशिक्षण में हिन्दी के प्रयोग को प्राथमिकता देगी; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या देश के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में इलेक्ट्रॉनिकी उद्योग और इन प्रशिक्षण संस्थाओं की स्थापना की कोई योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Statement

(a) The total employment (both direct and indirect) of persons in the electronic industry was 5.2 lakhs at the end of VII Plan. The expected employment at the end of 1995-96 would be about 14 lakhs. During 1992, direct and indirect employment is estimated at 3 lakhs and 3.5 lakhs respectively, out of which women account for about 20 per cent. Separate data regarding the employment of handicapped is not readily available.

(b) The Government would give preference to the use of Hindi and other Indian languages for training purposes wherever it will be most effective.